



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held July 10, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation to authorize settlement of the matter entitled Violet C. v. County of Los Angeles, et al. - LASC Case No. BC 318 761, in the amount of \$390,000; and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Children and Family Services' budget.

This lawsuit concerns allegations of abuse of a minor while in foster care.

Supervisor Molina made the following statement:

"For more than a decade, with the knowledge and approval of this Board, County Counsel has provided written memos to the Claims Board that provide an explanation and justification for recommended settlements that can number in the millions of dollars.

"These memos have provided the public with important information about the fault that is alleged, the County's perspective, expert views, what the County could expect should it take the case to trial, and how much the County has paid in fees to defend each case.

"Most importantly, by providing this information to the public, we have held ourselves, our Departments, and our institutions to a higher standard of scrutiny and accountability, forcing us to work harder to correct errors and to avoid repeating costly mistakes.

"Last week, after media inquiry, County Counsel informed the Board that the practice of providing these settlement Claims Board memos to the public was discontinued since May 2007. This action was taken without Board input and without public discussion."

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Molina, and by common consent, there being no objection, the Board took the following actions:

1. Adopted the Los Angeles County Claims Board's aforementioned recommendation, with the exception of the Corrective Action Plan which was continued three weeks to July 31, 2007;
2. Directed County Counsel to prepare a report for public discussion on July 31, 2007, that provides the rationale for the original decision to make this information public and what, if anything, has changed to justify discontinuing this practice;
3. Directed the Chief Executive Officer in collaboration with County Counsel to develop a process for presentation on July 31, 2007, that strikes an appropriate balance between our responsibility to open government and transparency, and our fiduciary duty to the public. Such a process should apply to all proposed settlements over \$20,000 and could include, but is not limited to, information on the fault alleged, settlement amount proposed, settlement justification, and attorneys' fees expended in defense of the claim; and
4. Instructed County Counsel, once a process is approved by this Board, to apply the process retroactively to all settlements over \$20,000 presented to the Claims Board or to this Board for approval since May 2007.

By common consent, and there being no objection, the Board reconsidered the foregoing motion to allow a member of the public to address the Board.

Patricia Mulcahey addressed the Board.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Molina, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Board approved Supervisor Molina's aforementioned motion.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller  
Director of Children and Family Services